

# The Monthly Minute

State Senator  
**John Pappageorge**

P.O. Box 30036 Lansing, MI 48909 • 877-736-1384 (Toll-Free) • 517.373.5669 (Fax) • [www.SenatorJohnPappageorge.Com](http://www.SenatorJohnPappageorge.Com) (Website)

## Inside this issue:

Senate ap- 2  
proves bill to  
help freight  
transportation  
firms

Bill strength- 2  
ening day-  
care provider  
guidelines  
signed into  
law

Senator Pap- 3  
pageorge  
honored with  
Elder States-  
man Award

August is Na- 4  
tional Immu-  
nization  
Awareness  
Month

## BACK TO SCHOOL update



It's that time of year again when children all around Michigan are returning to the classroom – which means parents will be spending a significant amount of money on new clothes and other items for school. To provide relief to families across the state facing economic hardships, I have sponsored a measure to help them better afford back-to-school supplies.

My legislation would bring tax relief to state residents by establishing a “back-to-school tax holiday.” Michigan would be joining a host of other states that already have such holidays, when sales taxes are lifted for a few days on supplies.

Senate Bill 75 would establish a Michigan back-to-school tax holiday during the first 15 days of September and include sales tax relief up to \$150 on clothing, as well as an additional tax break on school supplies up to \$50.

This bill would help alleviate some of the financial burden parents face in preparing their children for school while serving as an economic boost for retailers.

Officials in Texas estimate that consumers have saved approximately \$49 million, while Massachusetts residents have seen savings of \$17 million.

According to the National Retail Federation, total back-to-school and back-to-college spending will reach \$47.50 billion this year. It is estimated that families with students in grades K-12 will spend about \$548 on school merchandise.

SB 75 is currently before the Senate Finance Committee. I urge my colleagues to consider this important economic relief measure.

### Back to School Driving Tips

- Slow down when driving through or near school zones and residential areas after school hours when children may be playing;
- Scan ahead, especially if you see parked cars or other objects, because a child may dart out into the street;
- Obey crossing guards, they are there to protect children crossing the street; and
- Drive with your headlights on, even during the day, to keep your vehicle more visible.

Sincerely,

  
John Pappageorge

# Senate approves bill to help freight transportation firms

The state Senate recently approved legislation that provides fairness in the Michigan Business Tax (MBT) for freight transportation and logistic companies.

Double taxation is a major problem with the MBT and has resulted in tripling state business taxes on the freight industry. Senate Bill 1222 would bring relief to freight companies who are long-time Michigan taxpayers and job providers. It will help prevent them from being forced to leave the state or close their doors and lay off workers.



The measure would allow certain logistic firms to deduct payments made to subcontractors to transport freight by motor vehicle from the gross receipts base of the MBT. These payments are simply a pass-through to the subcontractors and not a profit to the company.

Officials from Steel Pro, headquartered in Wayne, Mich., support the bill and have said that the legislation would reduce their tax liability increase from 330 percent to 180 percent. While that is still more than their former Single Business Tax liability, the reduction would enable them to use the savings to invest in a \$5 million expansion.

# Bills strengthening day care provider guidelines signed into law



Measures designed to help ensure that parents have all the facts when choosing day care providers for their children were recently signed into law. To help protect kids' safety, these critical new laws create reporting guidelines for day care providers so that parents and guardians will have more information when making selections.

Public Act 86 of 2010 requires the Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS) to list on its website the number and nature of all DHS special investigations of a child care center or home classified as high risk.

An investigation is defined as high risk if abuse or neglect is the suspected cause of a child's death, the child is the victim of suspected sexual abuse or sexual exploitation, or abuse or neglect resulted in severe physical injury to the child.

Public Act 85 will help parents and guardians make informed choices by requiring child care centers and homes to maintain a licensing notebook that shall include the reports from all licensing inspections, renewal inspections, special investigations and corrective action plans.

# Sen. Pappageorge honored with Elder Statesman Award

In recognition of Michigan's older and active population, I sponsored a resolution declaring June 10 as "Older Michiganians Day." Senate Resolution 163 was approved by the Senate.

Michigan's older residents deserve our support and utmost respect for their many contributions to our communities and the state. It is my hope that all Michiganians will honor the older individuals in their lives and recognize everything they have done and will continue to do to improve Michigan communities.

More than 1.8 million residents over the age of 60 make Michigan their home.

I was honored to receive the Elder Statesman Award by the Older Michiganians Day Steering Committee, which consists of the AARP, Alzheimer's Association Greater Michigan Chapter, Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan, Michigan Association of Senior Citizens, Senior Volunteer Programs of Michigan, Michigan Directors of Services to the Aging and Michigan Senior Advocates Council.

I also sponsored Senate Bill 1328, which is part of a nine-bill package designed to help make communities across Michigan more "elder friendly."

SB 1328 would create a certification process for "elder friendly dwellings." The measure would establish a designation that builders could use to promote new or remodeled homes as "elder friendly." Criteria for these structures would include: one level housing, wider doorways and lever-style handles instead of knobs.

The Senate Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs Committee, which I serve on as vice chair, heard testimony on SB 1328. The panel is expected to vote on the measure in the coming weeks.





# August is National Immunization Awareness month

Did you know that children aren't the only ones who need vaccination? There are a number of vaccines that should be continued throughout your whole life, including:

- Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis-One dose every ten years
- Measels, Mumps, Rubella-One to two doses from ages 19-49
- Influenza-One dose annually for those aged 50 and older
- Pneumococcal- One dose annually for those aged 65 and older

Note: Information provided by the Centers for Disease Control



## Questions? Comments?

If you have any questions or comments regarding information in this newsletter, or wish to be removed from or added to the mailing list, please contact my office at the following information:

State Senator John Pappageorge  
P.O. Box 30036 Lansing, MI 48909  
1-877-SEN-13TH (736-1384) (toll-free)

517-373-5669 (fax)

[www.SenatorJohnPappageorge.com](http://www.SenatorJohnPappageorge.com)  
(Web site and e-mail form)



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